

A King-Siz

g Job

By Earle P. Elkins

The call for help came from David Harms, Southern Baptist missionary doctor working out of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The main water supply lines for Gualcinci were in terribly bad condition causing dangerous contamination and loss of much needed water.

Gualcinci is a small Indian village in the high mountains of Northwest Honduras located almost on the El Salvador border. The report was that these water lines must be repaired or replaced because once the rainy season began many people there would become sick and some of the children would most surely die.

The call came to the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. Harms said that people were needed to come to Honduras to perform this ministry and

the team must arrive and begin work before the heavy rains began in the middle of May.

Since the call came the last week in April, the FMB had only three weeks to put a team on the field. The qualifications were high, especially when one considers that the peak building season was underway here in the States.

Needed were an engineer to plan, oversee, and conduct the project, a master plumber and pipefitter, a skilled carpenter, a master brick mason to rebuild a reservoir, a reporter and photographer, other general foremen, and an evangelist to conduct evening revival services in the village. At such short notice, the task seemed impossible.

James Cecil, coordinator of such projects for the Foreign Mission Board, called the Honduras Baptist Dental Mission operating out of Laurel

First Baptist Church to see if this group could aid in finding the needed personnel for the mission.

Bert Jones, associate pastor of FBC, drafted a letter which was sent to all of the men of the church as well as pastors of other Southern Baptist churches of the Jones County Association asking for volunteers.

Robert Holfield, a dentist in FBC and president of the Honduras Baptist Dental Mission, spent many hours telephoning and witnessing God answer prayers hour by hour. An amateur radio operator, I initiated and maintained radio contact with Harms in Honduras and thus continued to finalize plans for the mission.

By the end of the first week the personnel with the following qualifications had volunteered... Cyrus Small, engineer; Jerry Myrick, engineer and

(Continued on page 5)



Cyrus Small supervises the building of the new housing for the master valve of the system.

The Baptist Record

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FBC Yazoo City Will Sponsor MSC Couple

First Baptist Church of Yazoo City has agreed to sponsor a Maryland couple for a two year stint as Mission Service Corps volunteers to England.

The couple, Larry and Mary Ann Michael of Cumberland, Md., are planning to leave in August to go to Tonbridge Baptist Church in Tonbridge, County of Kent.

They visited Yazoo City to tell of their work plans. And they are being oriented and commissioned this week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center during Foreign Missions Week.

Larry, a recent graduate with a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will serve on the church staff to "establish a mature level of commitment" among the 300 youths associated with the church, he says.

The two were summer missionaries to that church in 1976 and were invited to return for fulltime work by pastor David Beer. For their summer mission work, they did outreach, survey, Bible studies and generally "plugged into the ongoing church program," said Larry.

Larry did his undergraduate work at the University of Maryland and Mary Ann is a graduate of the Virginia Baptist



Larry and Mary Ann Michael

tist School of Nursing. They have a four-month-old daughter, Ashley.

James Cecil of the Foreign Mission Board told Owen Cooper, of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, and

(Continued on page 5)

Mississippians Undertake Barbados Sewing Mission

By Anne McWilliams

Sixteen Baptist women from Mississippi will undertake Operation Sewing Machine July 20-August 4 at Barbados in the Windward Islands. They will be the first all-women work group to assist a Southern Baptist foreign missionary.

They are going in response to a challenge from James Cecil, Foreign Mission Board associate consultant for volunteers in missions, made to Marjean Patterson, director, Mississippi WMU.

Martha Nelson, Pelahatchie author and pastor's wife, will be tour coordinator and leader.

Missionary Bill Womack of Barbados, had asked for a group of 16 women with sewing skills to work in a project at the government-related St. Phillips Hospital for Retarded Chil-

dren. The women will be sewing basic children's clothing (with closures to meet special needs of retarded children) and will be teaching a group of national women from the Emmanuel Baptist Church to sew. Half the group will cut and half will sew.

A "Help Wanted" article on Page 1 of the Baptist Record a few weeks ago brought immediate and enthusiastic response, Miss Patterson said.

More than 16 women volunteered to go, but those who cannot go on this mission venture will be given an op-

portunity for service in later projects, Mrs. Nelson said.

Women enrolled are: Mrs. Mary Batrous, Mrs. Willie Mae Tarter, and Mrs. Bobbie Crawford, all of McComb; Mrs. Becky Parker, Sattartia; Jay Cantrell of Yazoo City; Mrs. Kathryn Moody and Mrs. Ann Stringer of Poplarville; Mrs. Ann Melton, Ackerman; Miss Mary Jo Campbell, Hattiesburg, and Mrs. Paula Palermo of Gulfport; Mrs. Ottomece Magee, Summit; Mrs. Annette Williams, Ellisville; Maxine Ford, Woodville; Mrs. Louise Brown, Jackson; Minadene Waldrop, Jackson; and Martha Nelson, Pelahatchie.

Grace Memorial

Some volunteers are paying their own expenses, while others are having all or part of their expenses paid by their churches and/or associations. The cost is \$699.

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, is paying for expenses for two—Mary Jo Campbell (a professor of home economics at the University of Southern Mississippi who has a master's degree in home economics) and Mrs. Paula Palermo (Baptist Young

(Continued on page 5)

Families Conference Postponed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Joseph Califano Jr. has announced that the White House Conference on Families, originally scheduled for December 1979, in Washington, D. C., has been postponed until 1981.

The secretary of the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare made the announcement less than one week after the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Atlanta, approved a resolution urging President Carter and conference organizers to see that the meeting "focuses on the strengths of the family rather than so-called alternatives to the family."

Califano cited two reasons for the conference's postponement.

He said the recent resignations of the conference's chairman, Wilbur Cohen and executive director Patsy Fleming "means that we have to start anew" in forming a leadership team to plan the event. Cohen, a former secretary of HEW, resigned because of health reasons. No reason was given for the resignation of Ms. Fleming, special assistant to Califano.

Califano said another reason for delaying the conference is to provide "more lead time" for state and local conferences on family. An HEW spokesman said conferences on family have been held in seven states thus far, with others planned for the remainder of 1978 and 1979.



Carter Talks To Baptist Men

President Jimmy Carter receives a standing ovation following his talk to the Conference of Baptist Men on Friday morning following the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. Carter is flanked by his wife, Rosalynn, and Brotherhood Commission director, Glendon McCullough. At Mrs. Carter's right are Mrs. McCullough, then Bill and Barbara Hardy. Bill has been chairman of the Brotherhood Commission and is minister of education for FBC, Columbus. (Tim Nicholas Photo)

\$500,000 Needed To Rebuild Church In Communist Capital

WASHINGTON (BP) — A minimum of \$500,000 in new money is required by Sept. 1 to guarantee the replacement of "a historic and strategic" Baptist church in one of communist Europe's capital cities.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said that the original church building has been confiscated by the city's government in an urban renewal project and its land converted into a playground for children.

The city has offered the congrega-

tion "a good alternate site," Denny said, but construction must begin no later than Sept. 1 or the property will be forfeited.

Denny said that Baptists within the country and other groups in the European Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance have previously designated funds toward the building costs. This was believed to be sufficient, he said, until inflation and rigid construction requirements at the new site raised the overall cost to an estimated \$850,000. The sanctuary will

seat up to 700 worshippers at a single service.

The Baptist World Alliance did not reveal the location of the church or city in question. It did say however that the incident is not rare in communist Europe, and that the Alliance has previously come to the aid of other congregations in similar situations.

Contributions toward the construction costs may be sent to the Relief and Development, Baptist World Alliance, 1628 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

A Million Dollars' Worth

Southern Baptist Churches Will Receive Bible Films

By Bracey Campbell

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP) — Southern Baptist churches will receive an expected \$1 million in filmed renderings of the Bible by the end of the year, state Sunday School directors were told at an annual planning session at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Robert Fulbright, director of the

Bible teaching division at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, said the films are the first part of the "Genesis Project," a non-profit program established through grants to put the Bible on 16mm film.

Grants for the massive project came through such operations as the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations.

"The Genesis Project has been under way for some time, and a number of Southern Baptist theologians have served as consultants. It is a strict rendering of the King James Version of the Bible on film."

Fulbright said he has received verification that 200 of the filmed programs, valued at \$500,000, will be available to Southern Baptists by Labor Day. "And we expect an additional 200 programs (bringing the total value to \$1 million) will be available by the end of 1978."

He said the programs will be distributed under an agreement reached between the Bible teaching division and the Genesis Project.

Under the agreement, 30 programs will go to the six Southern Baptist seminaries and five to Baptist colleges and universities where curriculum laboratories of Southern Baptist materials are maintained.

The films are being given free to Southern Baptists and several other denominations.

Fulbright said the remaining programs will be distributed to the state conventions on the basis of Sunday School enrollment. "This will be done on the basis of the number of available programs to assure equal distribution among state conventions," he said.

Fulbright said participants in the filmed programs will be asked to participate in one of two training sessions scheduled June 23-24 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and July 28-29 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Each of the \$2,500 programs will consist of a 15 minute film covering a specific subject or group of biblical chapters; two color-and-sound filmstrips varying in length from 7 to 12 minutes, providing in depth understanding of what was seen in the film; a commentary in magazine form, "Bible Times: The New Media Bible Magazine;" and a teacher's guide, including a summary of the other materials.

Fulbright said he became involved in the project when Dean Gitter, vice president of the Genesis Project was

(Continued on page 5)

Royal Ambassador Camps

These Royal Ambassadors participated in a RA camp. Anyone can. The camps are set up this summer in Bellfontaine, Hattiesburg, and in Clinton.

The Bellfontaine camp is at Dorrah Lake Camp, July 24-28. It's for boys in grades 4-12 with special emphasis on camping skills, crafts, and swimming.

August 14-18, another camp with the same emphases and for the same age group, will take place at Paul Johnson State Park.

Each camp will cost \$42 per boy. Crusader mini-camps will take place at Camp Garaywa in Clinton on August 7-9 and August 9-11. These are for boys in grades 1-6 with special emphases on crafts, swimming, nature study and advancement. These cost \$21 per boy.

For any of the camps, send \$5 registration fee with registration information, to Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.



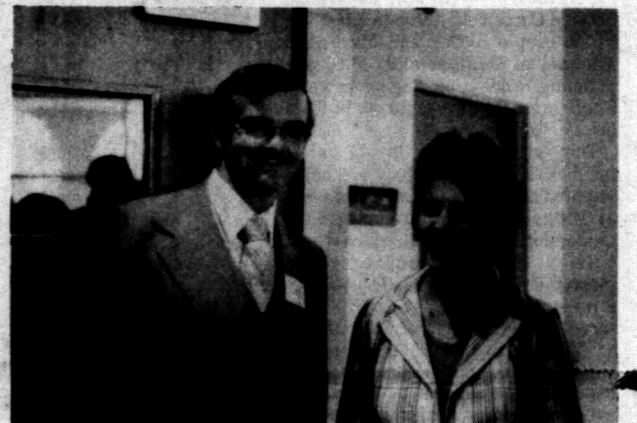
Mississippians



Left, are Mrs. A. L. Goodrich of Clinton who is resting her feet at the World Congress Center while waiting for her daughter to come by and pick her up. She's just had a reunion with Pansy and J. L. Rankin, formerly of Clinton, now of Fulton, standing behind her. The Rankins are parents of Jerry Rankin, missionary to Indonesia. At right, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Satterwhite of Bay Springs talk with Ray Grissett, consultant in the MBCB Department of Cooperative Missions, in the snack area of the World Congress Center. And below, are Mr. and Mrs. Welton Gaddy lounging with Frank and Jane Pollard. Gaddy is pastor of Broadway Church in Ft. Worth, Tex., and Pollard is pastor of FBC, Jackson.



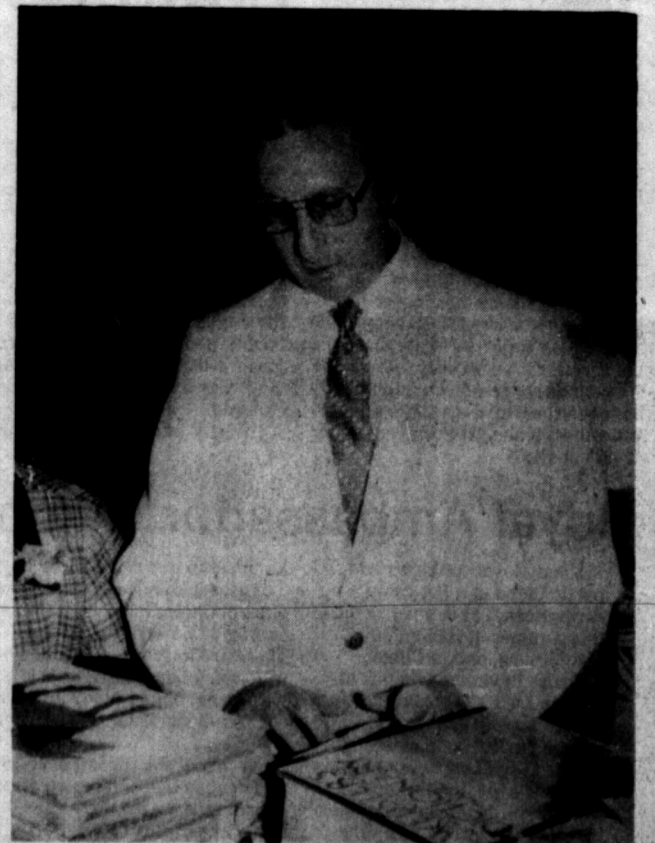
Left, W. Levon Moore, second from left in picture, director of missions for Attala Association, and Mrs. Moore, left in picture, pause for a visit with David Byrd, director of the Boyce Bible School at Southern Seminary, Mrs. Byrd, and their daughter Beth. The Byrds are former Mississippians. Right, James and Laureen McLemore tour the Home Mission Board. He is pastor of 38th Avenue Church in Hattiesburg. And below are Mr. and Mrs. James Yates. He is pastor of FBC, Yazoo City.



Above, Hardy Denham (in checked suit), pastor of FBC, Newton, talks with James Pleitz, pastor of FBC, Lubbock, Tex., in exhibit hall of the World Congress Center. At right, Ray Grissett of the convention board staff, is interviewed by Jim Jones, religion editor of the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram during the protest rally for homosexual rights in Atlanta. Below, Larry Otis, director of Mississippi-based Agricultural Missions Foundation, talks with Frank Pollard, pastor of FBC, Jackson, near the convention press room.



Below, James Hurt, pastor of Immanuel Church in Cleveland, browses in the Baptist Bookstore at the convention.



At The SBC



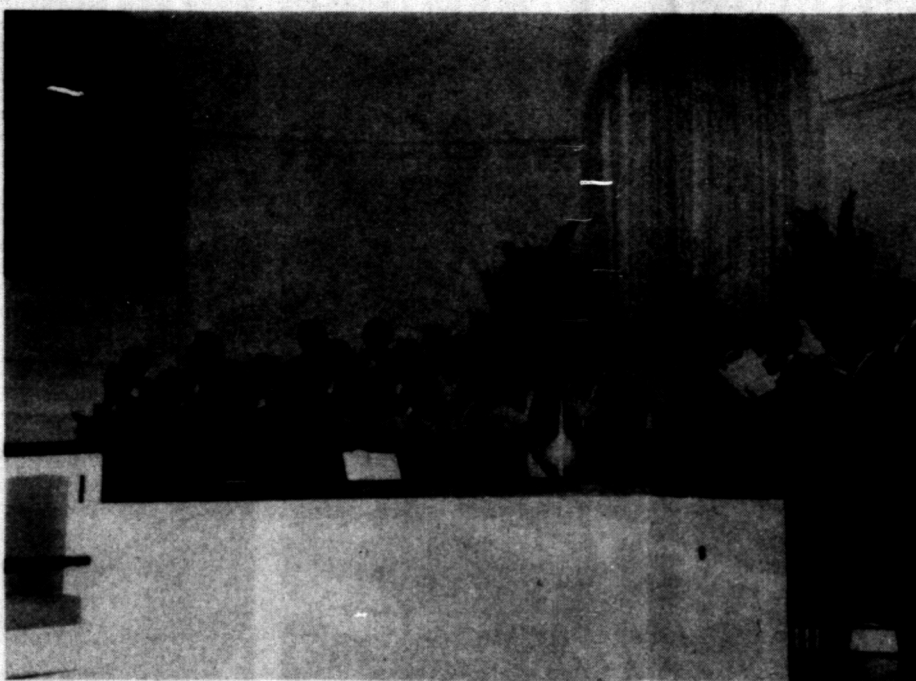
Above, James Richardson (with legs crossed) has a cup of coffee with John Daley, pastor of Brookhollow Church in Nashville. He's formerly pastor of FBC, Marks. Richardson is pastor of FBC, Leland. Below, Bill Smith and his family head for the parking lot after a session. He's pastor of FBC, Nettleton.



Above, Mr. and Mrs. James Fancher wait for an elevator. He is a Mississippi evangelist. She is an employee of Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. At left are Raymond and Marcia Ball outside the Omni. Ball is minister of music for Woodville Heights Church in Jackson. And below are Mr. and Mrs. James Richardson also waiting. He is pastor of FBC, Leland.



At right, the Mississippi Singing Churchmen minister with song during the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference which preceded the SBC meeting in Atlanta.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers talk with a friend near the front entrance of the Georgia World Congress Center. Myers is pastor of Jackson's Alta Woods Church.



At left, Lannie Wilbourn, pastor of Pinelake Baptist Church, Rankin County, and Mel Craft, pastor of FBC, Tylertown, visit. At right, Bill and Marion Duncan pause in the lobby of an Atlanta hotel.



The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

July 2 . . .

Live As Christian Citizens

Sunday is Christian Citizenship Sunday; and it is followed, appropriately enough, by our nation's Independence Day on July 4.

Christian Citizenship Sunday will be observed in churches of the Southern Baptist Convention all across the land, for it is an observance of the Southern Baptist Convention as sponsored by its Christian Life Commission.

Our faith behooves us to be aware of Christian Citizenship Sunday and to observe it; but more than that, our faith behooves us to exercise Christian Citizenship throughout the year, every year.

Baptists generally hold to a belief in the separation of church and state, for

they do not want the state to be exercising undue control over the church. By the same token, the church does not need to seek to exercise undue control over the state. Separation of church and state, however, does not mean separation of the individual and the state. Just as the church is made up of a collection of individuals, so the state also is such a collection of individuals. In a great number of instances, they are the same.

Thus while the church certainly should have no ability to exercise control over the state, it should be able to influence the state through the lives of its members who are participating in state affairs.

Church members are just as much a part of the state as they are a part of the church. We should participate in state affairs just as vigorously as in religious affairs.

Politics is not dirty. Politics is the way we run our country. What has happened is that in many instances we have let dirty people get entrenched in politics because we have failed to exercise Christian citizenship.

Our government on every level is what we make it to be or allow it to become. Are we tired of political shenanigans that benefit nobody but the politicians? Christians can change such a situation any time we take a notion to do so.

We don't have to have a church-controlled state to have responsible government. We don't have to have a prayer written by the principal or a commissioner of education every morning in school in order to have responsible education.

We can have these attractive conditions by having Christian people involved in government and in schools who will conduct themselves as Christians should.

With Christian citizenship will come the conditions we desire. It really would not be a very difficult situation to put into effect. All that is required is for Christians to exercise their citizenship.

Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday

By J. Clark Hensley

It would be quite easy, after the emotional binge of the Bi-Centennial of two years ago, for us to let down in the observance of Christian Citizenship Sunday. However, with the noted Russian leader telling the Harvard graduating class that he does not con-

sider America a nation to emulate as to spiritual leadership, perhaps it is a time for re-evaluation of our priorities as Christian citizens.

The theme for Christian Citizenship Sunday this year is "Shape A Better World: Be a Christian Citizen." We have noted with gratitude that more

and more of our Mississippi Baptist churches are becoming involved in the observance of Christian Citizenship Sunday. We believe also that more of our Christian leaders are expressing themselves as individuals in the political arena.

I would encourage our pastors and

churches to continue to stress that "righteousness still exalts a nation while sin is a reproach for many people." Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday July 2. If you need additional resources, they are available through the Christian Action Commission, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Many Sights and Sites . . .

Jordan, A Biblical Land

Tourists do not visit the East Bank of the Jordan, or Jordan proper, as much as they do the West Bank, which is now occupied by Israel. Jordan has its share of biblical sites, however, and will provide a very interesting journey for any tourist who will go there.

The sites in Jordan are to be found more in their natural state, for to this point modern hotels have not been built at all of them; and there are not churches at every place thought to be of interest, as there are on the other side of the river.

A great deal of Jordan's interest is in Old Testament sites, perhaps, but some places of high interest from the New Testament are also to be found. For instance, when a group of six Southern Baptist editors visited the country recently we were taken by Mississippian missionary Paul Smith to Machaerus, which the historian Josephus says is the site of the imprisonment and murder of John the Baptist. This was a very interesting excursion, perhaps made more so by the difficulty in reaching it. Machaerus is a hill of some height located in what was Perea in the time of Christ. A small Arab village is near there, perhaps two miles distant; and we went to the village in cars. From that point on it was on foot, and the travel was rugged enough just getting to the hill. Getting to the top of the hill was a steep climb with decidedly uncertain footing, but it was worth the effort. It was said to be the strongest fortress in Palestine except for Jerusalem. It was originally founded by Alexander Jannaeus during the time of 103 to 76 B.C. and was destroyed by Pompey's general Gabinius in 63 B.C. It was rebuilt by Herod the Great. On the death of Herod the Great it became the property of Herod Antipas, who had married a daughter of a Nabataean king but divorced her for Herodias, the wife of his brother. The Nabataean woman had escaped Herod Antipas from his Galilee headquarters at Tiberias on the pretext of going to Machaerus, which lies just north of the Nabataean regions. Authorities generally seem to agree that it was at Machaerus that John the Baptist was beheaded.

The top of the hill has magnificent ruins, parts of which could have been dungeons.

Breathtaking Vista

Exploring the area of the Nabataeans takes one to Petra, which is a breathtaking vista of a city hewn out of rock. Entrance to the city is by horseback through a narrow cleft in the rock more than 300 feet high until suddenly the most magnificent of the buildings is before the visitor. It is unlike anything ever seen before. A climb on stairs cut out of rock takes the pilgrim to more than 4,250 feet elevation where is located a wonderful rock temple and a view of the landscape reaching to the Negev. At this height we found a shepherd with his goats and accompanied by his 15-year-old daughter. She was a charming young bedouin who spoke English well. "How old are you?" she asked Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist. "Forty-seven," he answered. "That's nice," she said. Everett wasn't too sure of her judgment after that.

The cities of Decapolis were much a part of New Testament times, and Amman, the capital city of Jordan, was one of them. It was then called Philadelphia. Amman has significant Old Testament sites also, for it is said that Uriah the Hittite lost his life in the forefront of an assault on the Citadel high above this city. This freed Bathsheba to marry King David.

Another of the Decapolis cities visited by the group was Jerash, noted on biblical maps as Gerasa. Here again is a fascinating setting of the ruins of an ancient city. In this case, it was Roman. It was truly a magnificent city from its theater cut out of rock to its forum at the foot of its main street. The street, paved with flattened rocks, leads through a row of columns past the city fountain, which is a wondrous sight.

Most Complete

Jerash is in the mountains of Gilead and is said to be the most complete

example of a provincial Roman city in the world.

The visitor finds the trail of Moses and the children of Israel as he is introduced to Wadi Musa, near Petra, which is said to be the site where Moses first struck the rock to gain water for the travelers. Further north, we rode to the top of Mt. Nebo in cars to view, as Moses did, the promised land from the east side of the Jordan River.

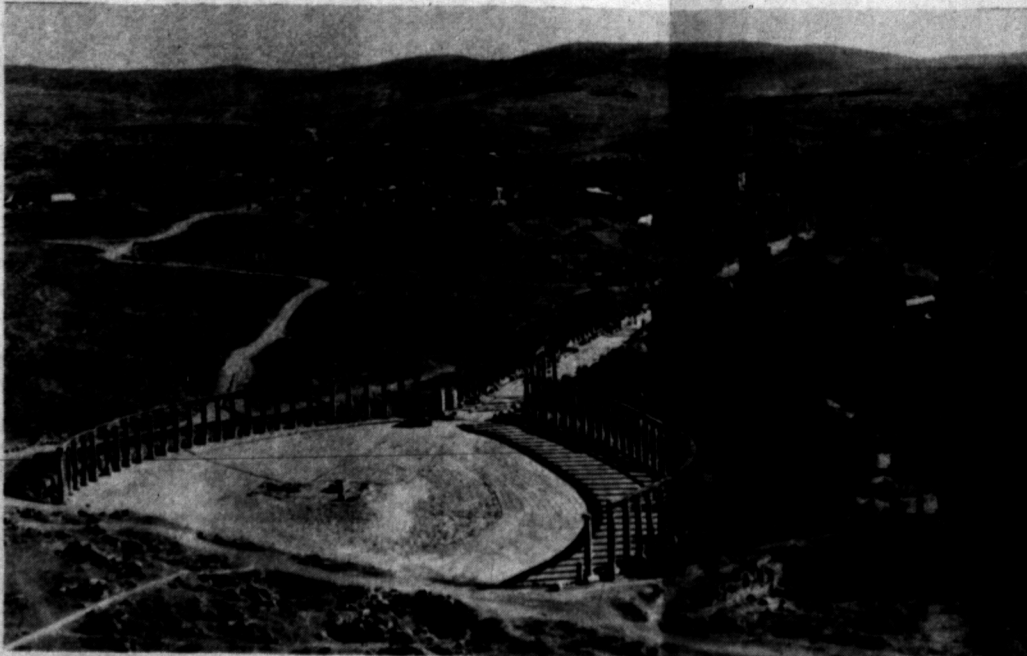
Jordan is a charming land, and its people are just as charming. I talked with a 15-year-old Bedouin girl, and I

talked with His Royal Highness Prince Hassan. Both made me feel at ease in their land. At the time I talked with Hassan his brother, King Hussein, was out of the country and Hassan was in charge.

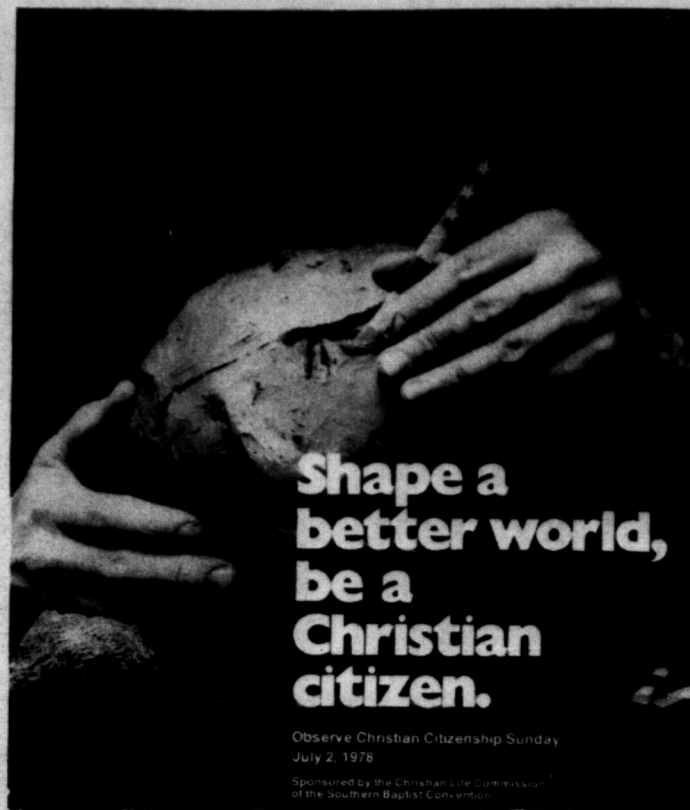
Ending with a party given by the Rotary Club affiliate, the Inner Wheel, and a ride home first class in Jordan's 747, the trip was a delightful one indeed. Its memories must last a lifetime, for there will never be another like it; and indeed they will. — DTM



Romans built a large theater in the First Century, A.D., and it sits in the center of the modern city of Amman.



In the mountains of Gilead are the ruins of the Roman city of Gerasa in Decapolis. It is now Jerash in Jordan.



Shape a better world, be a Christian citizen.

Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday July 2, 1978

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

—Letters to the Editor—

Social Security

Dear Editor:

My office has been getting calls in regard to the article you published in the May 25th issue of the Baptist Record entitled, "Ministers Get Social Security Grace Period." Since this subject of social security and ministers is very much a part of our lives for those of us in the ministry, it is imperative that we give correct and accurate information.

The reason of this letter to inform you that the writer of the article had fallen prey to a common error that many make in understanding ruling 77-88, IRB 1977-14. Many have understood it to mean the interpretation that was given it. The ruling referred to falls under section 1402-G of the tax code. This refers to religious sects such as Amish, Church of God, where members of those denominations waive out of Social Security under waiver form 4029. In that waiver they are stating they do not believe in any kind of public or private insurance protection. Therefore, if they waive out of Social Security, and then buy insurance and annuities, they are liable and will be required to re-enter Social Security.

It is important to understand that for the clergy, and religious workers under section 1402 E in IRS publication 517, refers to ministers waiving out of Social Security by signing waiver form 4361. Under this ruling, an ordained minister may waive out of Social Security because of religious principles because Social Security is under a Federal System and so, therefore for income earned as an ordained minister, only the minister has the right to opt out of Social Security. In signing waiver form 4361, this has nothing to do with private insurance or annuities. He is not stating that his religious beliefs are against private insurance and annuities, but that he has religious and spiritual problems in mixing money earned from the church under a Federal Social system. To put it simply, it is somewhat a matter of separation of church and state in the ministers' mind.

Jerry P. Vinzetta
Education Director
Ebenezer Church
Hernando

Rather Be In Church

Dear Editor:

Since I have been eight years old I have been attending the Sunday worship services at Trinity Baptist Church in Carthage.

I have graduated from high school in 1977 and I am enrolled in Columbia School of Broadcasting in Memphis seeking a degree in radio announcing in about two or three more months.

I am employed at the radio station in town to get some on the air experience; and, to make a long story short, I no longer get to attend the Sunday morning worship services anymore.

I never would have guessed I would miss anything so much. Everything from singing in the choir to listening to the message to shaking hands with the people I have known and loved all my life.

To any young person reading this letter right now, if you really have God in your heart like I do, you will miss going to church more than anything else in the whole world.

Like the old saying goes "Behind every cloud is a silver lining." I do get to hear the Sunday morning worship services of the First Baptist Church in Carthage at 11 a.m. and a spiritual program at 2 p.m. I would still rather be in my church personally though for Sunday worship.

Andy Martin
Carthage, MS

Book Review

PUNCHING HOLES IN THE DARKNESS by Ida Nelle Holloway (Broadman, paper, \$2.25, 128 pp.) The author, a former missionary to Japan, is from Nashville, where she is a freelance author, public school teacher, housewife, and mother of five. This book is a compelling appeal to the Christian to share the Light of the World. Mrs. Holloway says, "I watched my neighbors standing in the cold and the rain, clapping numb hands before a shrine, or ringing a bell before a temple, trying to arouse the attention of a god of stone. . . . To understand this darkness, I had only to imagine trying to face one year, one month, even one day without Christ."



Under the watchful eye of a military policeman, the editor, center, discusses such weighty topics as the weather with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan.



The Nabataean stronghold, Petra, is carved out of the rose-red rock in the desert of southern Jordan.

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Reports And Features Use Drama, Art, Music, Films

By Anne McWilliams

"If it is to be, it's up to me." The words of this year's convention theme song flashed on in yellow neon lights near the ceiling of the World Congress Center, as the Wednesday evening session came to a close.

Sights and sounds were very much a part of the reports to the Atlanta convention, and of the three evening feature presentations. Music, pulpit, special lighting effects, drama, speech, art, and pre-recorded video tapes were the media used.

Magnified images of speakers, actors, and musicians were reproduced on closed-circuit television screens, some large, some small, scattered over the auditorium and in the press room. Sometimes the song leader would appear on one screen and the pianist on another. Or both might appear on one screen as a double image. With two cameras on one speaker, the audience could get views from two angles at once.

Though Southern Baptist Convention messengers may not listen to all reports, it was the last line of a report to the 1976 convention that was the

basis for this year's theme song. Warren Hultgren, pastor of First, Tulsa, Okla., reported in 1976 on the work of the Mission Challenge Committee and concluded, "If it is to be, it's up to me."

William J. Reynolds of Nashville, secretary of the Sunday School Board's church music department, wrote a song based on that phrase at the request of the 1978 Committee on Order of Business. The song goes along with the theme, Bold Mission Thrust. Reynolds said he wrote it in one evening and "polished it over in a couple of days."

The three evening feature presentations had been planned by a committee: Catherine Allen, WMU; Rosser McDonald, Radio and TV Commission; Bill O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board; Ed Seabough, Home Mission Board; Norman Godfrey, Brotherhood Commission; and Lloyd Householder, Sunday School Board, chairman.

My Church In BMT

Tuesday evening's 90-minute feature, "My Church in Bold Mission Thrust," used dramatic presentations to link speeches by William G. Tanner and Grady Cothen.

Jeanette Clift George of Houston, Tex., remembered for her portrayal of Corrie ten Boom, and a drama group from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., portrayed Bible stories of churches doing missions throughout Christian history. They began with scenes from the church at Antioch and the church group that prayed for Peter when he was in prison.

My Life In BMT

Wednesday night's feature, "My Life in Bold Mission Thrust," centered on experiences of persons who have given their lives to mission ventures. Host and hostess were Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, SBC, and Glendon McCullough, executive director, Brotherhood, SBC. They were anchor persons for live interviews and video-taped interviews filmed around the world.

The program outlined opportunities for careers as appointed missionaries, for short-term mission projects, and for joining the Mission Service Corps. Blind concert artist Ken Medema opened and closed the production with original songs.

Winston Crawley and Keith Parks spoke in place of Baker James Cauthen, director of the Foreign Mission Board, who is confined with shingles.

"Each minute that passes there are more persons who do not know Jesus. World population will grow by perhaps 20,000 while we are meeting here tonight," said Crawley.

Keith Parks said, "No man of God can preach with power and freedom calling others to unreservedly follow God's will if he has doubts about his own commitment."

Ethel Price, 81, Jacksonville, Fla., had taken the day off from helping home missionaries in Buffalo, New York, as camp cook, to encourage messengers to volunteer for mission projects. (Last summer she was housemother for student summer missionaries in the Grand Canyon.)

Jim and Betty McKinley, missionaries to Bangladesh, who were on stage, and Shelby Smith, missionary to Antigua, represented those who invest their lives in foreign missions. (As photographers took his picture for convention news, McKinley said he once took about 15 pictures in rapid succession of a woman and her sick child in Bangladesh. The baby died in its mother's arms as the missionary photographed.)

U. S. Senator Mark Hatfield, known for political action to relieve world hunger, spoke via film on the huge screens.

Others on stage were Sarah Frances Anders, Louisiana College; and Sally Strayer, Pennsylvania. Others on film were Edith Vaughn, Brazil; Fern Powers, Washington; Jim Porter, Maryland; and Gary Shepherd and Frank Thomas, New Mexico.

The message of career missionaries was clearly this: "If I had my life to live over, I would still be a missionary."

My Family In BMT

The Thursday night presentation, "My Family in Bold Mission Thrust" used family groups on stage and on film, and singing in a choir.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bass of Lubbock, Texas, were host and hostess. (He is mayor of Lubbock; she is on the SBC Executive Committee.)

John Glover of First Church, Atlanta, directed the choir of multi-age family groups. Angela Cofer of Louisiana sang.

Testimonies, live and on film, linked messages by Elton Trueblood and Mrs. Billy Graham. The testimonies were by Don and Lynn Gurney, Colorado; Earl Martin, Rwanda; Oliver and Donna Lusk, Vermont; Barbara Burkett, Canada; Doug and Evelyn Knapp, Tanzania; Lynn and Suzanne Groce, Ethiopia; and Pastor and Mrs. Levi Price, Sr., California.



Bob and Anita (Bryant) Green

Hawaii Church Calls Odle As Interim Pastor

Joe T. Odle of Jackson, former editor of the Baptist Record, now retired, has accepted a call to become interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

He and Mrs. Odle will fly to Hawaii on June 30 and expect to be there for at least three months and possibly longer.

The church, the largest Southern Baptist congregation in Hawaii, is made up almost totally of military personnel and their families. It has around 450 in Sunday School.

Don Rhymes was formerly pastor of the church but has returned to work at the Home Mission Board headquarters in Atlanta.

Odle, an Illinois native, has been pastor in Mississippi at First, Gulfport, and at First, Crystal Springs.

MSC Couple

(Continued from page 1)

missions committee chairman for FBC, Yazoo City of the Michael's plans. And the Michaels were invited to Yazoo City to talk to the church which agreed to sponsor their work.

Said Larry of the Tonbridge church and pastor, "The congregation has a deep desire for evangelism. It has new facilities and the pastor is not only committed to evangelism, but to working with the people to develop a program to provide an impetus for growth in the denomination."

Bible Films

(Continued from page 1)

referred to the Bible teaching division by Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The timing of the availability of these films is excellent," he said. "They will be available to Southern Baptists at almost the identical time of the new Bible Book Series being made available by the Sunday School Board."

Bible Book Series, available Oct. 1, 1978, is a new Sunday School curriculum which will study all 66 books of the Bible during a nine year period. The series will have one periodical for all youth and one periodical for all adult members, plus teacher quartetries for both ages.

Future Of Rhodesian Missions Being Decided

Southern Baptist mission work in Rhodesia is in "a holding pattern," according to Davis Saunders, Foreign Mission Board secretary for that area of Africa. This is in the wake of the June 15 death of missionary Archie Dunaway at Sanyati and the more recent slayings of 12 British missionaries in a remote border outpost.

"The leadership of the Baptist Mission of Rhodesia (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in that country) is in contact with Rhodesian government officials with regard to the security situation," said Saunders after receiving a June 26 telephone report from Rhodesia.

"The mission is not going to allow missionary personnel to go deliberately into an area that is known to be unsafe," said Saunders.

In the meantime, all Southern Baptist missionaries have evacuated the Sanyati station. A team composed of the mission chairman and two medical missionaries were to go to Sanyati June 28 to survey the possibilities for the hospital and school to continue without missionaries present.

A decision concerning the future of the school and hospital will be made July 1, in Gatooma, Rhodesia, in a meeting of the boards of governors of the institutions and the executive committees of the mission and the Baptist Convention of Rhodesia. These boards are made up of both missionaries and local Baptist leaders.

Bryant Plans National Free Hotline For Gays

By Tim Nicholas

Singer Anita Bryant drew more attention during Southern Baptist Convention week activities in Atlanta than the average messenger.

Her appearance at the pastors' conference was preceded by a march and rally of several thousand gay rights activists who gathered outside the Georgia World Congress Center where the pastors met.

Inside, Miss Bryant mingled testimony and song telling pastors and interested visitors who overflowed the 19,000 seat capacity house that the folks outside should not be picketing her.

"They should picketing the ministers of this nation for telling it like it is," she said.

Later, in a press conference, she seemed to backtrack on that statement when she told reporters that she had not had the support of religious leaders in the nation because it (gay rights) is a controversial issue. She also scolded fellow Baptist President Jimmy Carter for not openly supporting her stand on the gay rights issue.

She did get general support from the crowd at the pastors' conference. Participants gave a standing ovation and applauded her often.

However, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention itself apparently did not equate approval of what she has done or suffered with qualifica-

tions for being a convention officer.

She was nominated for first vice president of the convention and was defeated by Doug Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn.. Watterson took 66 percent of the 10,080 votes cast.

Miss Bryant was registered as a messenger from her church in Miami, Fla., Northwest Baptist Church. She had given her permission to have her name submitted for the office.

She had said at her press conference which took place before the convention that she would serve if elected only if it were an honorary position.

Miss Bryant indicated in the press conference that her fight against gay rights will likely be joined into a ministry to homosexuals, possibly beginning with a national toll free hotline for gays wanting spiritual counseling, then the opening of counseling centers starting in Miami.

Miss Bryant quickly became spokesperson for the anti-gay rights position in the nation when she spearheaded a move a year ago in her home Dade County, Florida which resulted in the killing of a law guaranteeing job, housing and public accommodation rights to homosexuals.

At the press conference during the SBC meeting, Miss Bryant said the law would have forced private schools to hire "flaunting, practicing homosexuals."

Barbados Sewing

(Continued from page 1)

Women leader.) The church made up an offering of \$1700 for the two.

Grace Memorial will hold a commissioning service on July 16 for Campbell and Palermo, according to Jim Futral, pastor.

The women who responded to the Help Wanted plea are skilled in sewing. Mrs. Magee of Summit is a retired home demonstration agent. Mrs. Batrous has accumulated 1900 hours' sewing with the Pink Ladies in McComb. She and her husband were organizers of the Mississippi Society for Retarded Children and worked in helping get the school at Ellisville started.

One woman owns a needlework shop; another sews in a garment factory. One is a young pastor's wife, considering missions as a career. Joy Cantrell of Yazoo City is an A-1 teens leader.

Baptist Women and A-1 teens who could not go themselves have been responsive in serving as Enablers — making it possible for others to go. Associations and church groups have given sewing machines, thread, snaps, and other materials. Several Mississippi factories have given fabrics, zippers, tapes, etc. Undesignated gifts of money have come from WMUs, in addition to sewing machines.

Mrs. Nelson said that the women going to Barbados would carry the sewing machines as luggage.

First, Greenwood

The Baptist Business Women at First Church, Greenwood, are giving one sewing machine, which the Singer Company offered to sell them for \$95.

Dewey Sanford of Grenada was guest speaker at the June meeting of Business Women at First Church, Greenwood. He showed slides of a lay mission trip to Barbados and told of the project, Operation Sewing Machine. In a five-minute business session the group donated \$57 of the \$95

to go toward the purchase of the machine.

Will Stay In Dorm.

While in Barbados the women will be housed in a dormitory of Barbados Baptist College. Still in early stages of development, the college is on the grounds of an old sugar plantation.

The two-week trip will include an overnight stop in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and a stop at Guadeloupe where the women plan to have dinner with Mississippi missionaries, Florence and Wayne Frederick.

The people of Barbados speak English, so no second language will be needed.

Missionary Womack said he believes that this mini-missions project will be a means of helping leaders and residents of Barbados know that Southern Baptists are interested in the total life of the island. He added that he is convinced that the project will open avenues for further ministries to the island residents.

Other projects utilizing women's skills will be announced in the near future, according to James Cecil of the Foreign Mission Board.

Nevada Plans Convention

CARSON CITY, Nev. (BP) — Members of Southern Baptist churches in Nevada gathered in Carson City, Nev., for the last of a series of annual fellowship meetings preceding formation into a state Baptist convention, Oct. 16-17, 1978, in Las Vegas.

Committees have been set in motion to find an executive secretary, recommend the place for the state offices to be located, and to plan the organizational program. Currently Southern Baptist churches in northern Nevada cooperate with the Southern Baptist General Convention of California and churches in southern Nevada cooperate with the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Proposed name for the new state convention would be "Nevada Area Baptist Convention." The word "area" was included because five churches outside the state have signed letters of intent to affiliate with the new convention.

Summer Missionary

Nash: 'God Could Heal Land'

"No matter how much trouble is going on," said summer missionary to Rhodesia, Trudy Nash, "these people still need our prayers."

Miss Nash, a Baptist Student Union appointee to Sanyati, where missionary Archie Dunaway was killed earlier this month, visited the Baptist Record offices just before press time.

She said that the lives of the African people are in more danger than those of the missionaries. "They all need our prayers," she said. "God could heal that land."

Miss Nash, a Jackson resident and student at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing, returned with Mrs. Dunaway when the missionaries were evacuated from the Sanyati compound following the death of Mr.

Dunaway. Miss Nash's job was to work with newborn babies at the hospital and with a church choir and with Woman's Missionary Union in the area.

Before they left Sanyati, Mrs. Dunaway's midwifery school students came to the house and "just cried," said Miss Nash. At the guest house in Salisbury, missionaries from other denominations brought food.

She had only been in Rhodesia two weeks, but she said that the missionaries "really do become your family."

"It was beautiful to be among a group of people who were really seeking what God wanted for Sanyati and for their lives," she said.

In Nashville for Dunaway's funeral last week (Miss Nash said it was more a "victory service") the porter who carried her bags gave her a funny look. Then she realized that she had thanked him in Shona, a local dialect in Rhodesia.

King-Sized Plumbing

(Continued from page 1)

carpenter; myself as radio operator and work foreman, Hubert Britt, soil conservation engineer; Tommy Ruffin, engineer and work foreman (all of Laurel FBC); Al Polson, master plumber and pipefitter (of West Laurel Baptist Church); Alan Tiggert, master brick mason; and Terry Booth, evangelist (both of Indian Springs Baptist Church).

Many people in the Laurel area learned of the mission and being unable to go... gave of their monies to help finance the passage of the participants.

Upon arriving in Gualcinca via Mission Aviation Fellowship, the team inspected the work and formulated a plan of action for the following days. The inspection of the water system revealed that it was in very bad need of repair in various places and that portions of the system would require replacement. Working long hours side by side with the hard-working men of the village, these repairs and replacements were made up and down the steep mountain side. Monuments were built to suspend the pipe across gullies, and runoffs were dug to divert destructive mountain torrents away from the supply lines.

The roof of the holding tank on the village end of the line was rebuilt to

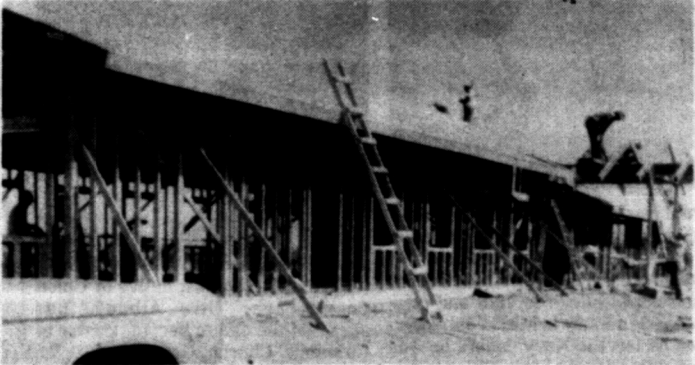
prevent contamination in this area. The dam at the spring was cleaned and reworked. Valve houses were built to contain the master valves in the line.

Church services were held each night with Terry Booth preaching and national leaders in charge of the services. Significant decisions were made during the week. Local men of the church, inspired by the living testimony of the team members as well as their spoken testimonies, committed themselves to go the next week to a neighboring village for several days to share Christ with them.

A village leader whom many had been praying for, attended the services. David Harms was invited to preach in the local Catholic church.

The work was finished up on Monday and Missionary Aviation Fellowship returned the group to Tegucigalpa. Well, part of the way to Tegucigalpa anyway. Due to weather conditions, they landed in Sequetepeque with plans to catching a bus the remainder of the way. The buses were all filled due to a carnival so the group hitchhiked into Tegucigalpa. Tuesday was spent repairing missionary vehicles and plumbing and with an interesting shopping trip downtown. Wednesday the team arrived home tired, happy, and voicing a special prayer for a special people God loves in Honduras.

Bold Missions In California



A group of Baptist men from George-Green Associations traveled in May to erect this building for First Southern Baptist Church of Borrego Springs, Calif., 85 miles from San Diego.

The men slept on mattresses in the house the church has been meeting in and reported that the framing and decking went on so quickly that many of the townspeople came out to see the work.

Horace Glass, George-Green area missionary, reported that the association raised more money than was needed. He said that already two more mission trips are being planned, one to Surinam and another to Ecuador.



This is the Borrego Springs work crew. Front row — S. O. Smith, Van Hardin, Fred Hight, First Baptist, Leesville — J. W. Bullock, First Baptist, Benndale — William McWilliams, Hillcrest, Jimmy Smith (out front) Jack Brewer, New Hope — Charles Smith, Barton — Richard Lacy, Agricola. Second Row — Joe Dickerson, First Baptist, Lucedale — Terry Fike, Rocky Creek — Connie Wilkerson, Hillcrest — Mark Bailey, First Baptist, Lucedale — Robert Sones, Cedar Grove — Randy Davis, New Hope — Randy Clark, host pastor — Arvis Wiggins, Rocky Creek — Joe Glenn Dickerson, photographer.

Gulfshore

Space Is Still Available For Sunday School Weeks at Gulfshore

Gulfshore Sunday School Mini Leadership weeks are scheduled for July 31 - August 2; August 3-5; August 7-9; and August 10-12. Space is still available at Gulfshore for you to make reservations.

All four Sunday School mini-weeks will be devoted to leadership conferences. The first two mini-weeks will have special conferences for Youth—grades 7 through 12; for Children—grades 1-6; and for Preschool boys and girls.

In addition to these conferences there will be special interest confer-

ences (Growth; How To Start A Deaf Program; Children and Conversion).

The Bible study and Bible messages will be led by Kenneth Chaffin, pastor of South Main Church, Houston, Tex. There will also be a preview of special growth films each night.

A library conference will be led by Mrs. Peggy Tacon of Mobile, Ala.

Music for the first mini-session will be under the direction of Leon Bedsole of First Church, Biloxi, and for the second mini-session the music will be led by Tom Moak from South McComb Church in McComb. A special growth

conference will be led by Eugene Skelton, Growth Section, Sunday School Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The third and fourth mini-sessions will feature leadership training for all Sunday School age group workers plus Bible study and Bible messages by John Drakeford and Mrs. Drakeford from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Music for the third and fourth mini-sessions will be led by Doug Scott, minister of music at Calvary Church, Jackson.

There will be no conferences for Preschool, Children or Youth during the third and fourth mini-sessions. A conference on growth will be led by Jim Fitch, Supervisor, Growth Section, Sunday School Board, Nashville; and a bus conference will be led by Carlie Hill from Parkway Church in Jackson.

For additional program information, write to Bryant Cummings, Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

For reservations at Gulfshore write to Frank Simmons, Manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Gulfshore

Brotherhood Leadership To Be Fed From Van

A training retreat for church Brotherhood leadership will take place August 18-19 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Pass Christian.

A special feature of the retreat will be breakfast—served from the disaster relief van which is being completed for use by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in times of need in the state. It will be operated by a team trained by the Brotherhood Department.

Speakers for the retreat include Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, and Frank Gunn, pastor of First Baptist Church in Biloxi.

Sessions include training for age group leaders and in mission ministries opportunities for men and for boys.

The program begins with registration at 4 p.m., August 18, and closes



Gunn



Leavell

with lunch the next day.

For further program information write Paul Harrell, director, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 354-3704.

For reservation information, write Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571, or phone 452-7261.

Church Training

Retreat and Chautauqua Tour Are Major Projects For Senior Adults

A Senior Adult Retreat and a Chautauqua Tour to Ridgecrest are planned for August and October as major projects for Mississippi Baptist Senior Adults for the remainder of this year according to Kermit S. King, Consultant for Senior Adult Ministries.

The retreat scheduled for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, August 14-18, already has a waiting list according to Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Assembly

Manager. Chester Swor of Jackson is scheduled as the speaker with Perry Webb, Jr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as the Bible teacher.

Space is still available for the Chautauqua Tour to Ridgecrest, October 14-21. The Greyhound tour bus will leave Jackson on Saturday morning and return the following Saturday afternoon.

In addition to spending five days during the most beautiful part of the

year in the mountains of North Carolina, participating in a program of spiritual enrichment, along with sightseeing opportunities in the Asheville area, there will be stopovers enroute in Chattanooga, Gatlinburg, and Atlanta.

Total cost for the tour, according to King, is \$202, with \$25 required in advance as a reservation fee. Detailed information is available from Kermit S. King, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Commission Road

Members Rebuild From Despair

By Don McGregor

Members of Commission Road Baptist Church in Long Beach have a problem, and they know it. For the most part, however, they seem to choose to ignore it.

The church began as a mission of Bay Vista Church in Biloxi in June of 1975. They are meeting in a double-wide mobile chapel that belongs to the state convention and a regular mobile home that has been loaned by an indi-

vidual. The property was bought 15 years ago by the association.

Last fall the mission felt a need for permanent buildings; and, in order not to force the association to be responsible for the note, the mission organized into a church in September. It was accepted into Gulf Coast Association in October and borrowed \$100,000 with which to begin construction.

On Jan. 1 the church split. The pastor and a minority group embraced a

worship style that included speaking in tongues, and the church took a stand in opposition. The pastor and the charismatic group left to form what was first called a Baptist church. Later the name was changed and "Baptist" dropped as a part of it.

This division put the church back in a mission status. It cut the finances in half, and the building program had just begun.

Moving Soon

Commission Road will move into its completed new building soon, and it will stand as a monument to the work of a rejuvenized group of church members. The members who were left were not all the most active at the time of the split. Many, however, have found new meaning in their church relationship and their Christian discipleship since the split. People who had never been greatly involved moved in to help finish the building.

It has not been an easy struggle at all, and it doesn't promise to get easier soon. Bay Vista saw the need and began to contribute \$100 a month to Commission Road. Others are contemplating additional financial help. Director of Missions Sam Turner says the church needs \$300 a month. The members hope to pay a new pastor \$200 a month.

"If the church can get help for six

Newsbriefs

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — The House International Relations Subcommittee has released an intelligence report which indicates that Sun Myung Moon received funds from the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) to stage rallies in the U. S. in support of South Korean policies and aims.

Fayetteville, N. C. (RNS) — North Carolina's United Methodists endorsed a position paper which called on people to stop smoking and urged the state to shun tobacco farming and convert the acreage to "more benign and beneficial crops."

St. Louis (RNS) — The obstetrics and gynecology (Ob-Gyn) departments of Roman Catholic-affiliated St. John's Mercy Medical Center and the nearby Missouri Baptist Hospital will be merged effective July 1. Sister Mary Roch Rockledge, R.S.M., president of the board of St. John's, said Missouri Baptists Hospital will support the Catholic facility's policy against abortions and sterilization.

Shreveport, La. (RNS) — The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. (PCUS) overwhelmingly voted here not to cancel denominational meetings in states that have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment and, with equal vigor, decided to support a boycott of Nestle products until the company changes its policies in marketing infant formula in Third World countries.

Ruleville Church To Show Film By Francis Schaeffer

Ruleville Church will present a ten-episode color film series on July 7 and 8, called "How Should We Then Live? The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture."

The documentary spectacular was shot in more than 100 locations in 12 countries. It was written by and features Francis Schaeffer, author and theologian who established the L'Abri community in Switzerland.

Schaeffer preaches that Biblical Christianity is not only true, but intellectually defensible and reasonable. He has warned that our commonly accepted human freedoms, often taken for granted in the West, are in great danger of disappearing. But unlike most doomsmongers, he offers positive alternatives for the future.

In the final episode of "How Should We Then Live?" he reviews the tragic history of the last two decades and concludes that man's only hope is a return to God's biblical absolutes — truth revealed in Christ through the Scriptures.

Rick Asken of Dallas, Tex. will be at Ruleville as seminar leader. A. M. Moore III is the pastor.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — In 1975, the Census Bureau's projection of the elderly population was 30.6 million by the year 2000. A new estimate states that persons 65 years and over will comprise 12.2 per cent of the population by the end of the century (31.8 million), compared with 10.7 per cent in 1976.

months," Turner said, "it won't look back."

George Holifield is a deacon at Bay Vista Church and is vice-moderator of the association. He is also chairman of the finance committee for his church. He said, "We haven't been in the red since we began to help Commission Road. We had been many times before that."

CP Giving

Since its inception Commission Road has given 10 per cent of its total income to the Cooperative Program and 2 per cent to association missions. Even during its turmoil of the recent past it continued to do so.

There are now about 85 members, and Sunday School attendance is from 50 to 60. Residential areas are on three sides, and from 200 to 300 homes are planned for across the street. The only other Southern Baptist churches in Long Beach are First and Sharon. First Church will help Commission Road with its Vacation Bible School.

Ed Holmes, a chaplain, has been conducting services for the church since the split. The membership hopes to call a pastor in the next week or two.

Last Saturday a two laymen from Arkansas made the trip to Commission Road to lay the carpet in the building. They considered this a part of the Bold Mission Thrust effort.

The Missions Task

The \$75 Million Goal

By John Alexander
Director, Stewardship Department

I have been sitting here thinking about the new \$75 million Cooperative Program Budget Goal adopted by the Atlanta convention. Seventy-five million dollars is a lot of money!!! Do you really understand just how much \$75 million is? Let me see if I can break that figure down so both of us can understand it.

I am told there are now 13 million of us Southern Baptists in the United States. To give \$75 million next year will require each of us to contribute the exorbitant amount of \$5.78 for the whole year to all missions beyond the states. This is an average of 11 cents a week, 1 1/4 cents per day!

For some reason I keep wondering if God really thinks we are serious about sharing our faith in Jesus with the rest of the world? One and one-half cents a day! Do you think we are really serious about missions?

While it is true that those who do give through the churches to support our work give more than 11 cents a week to missions, about 15 per cent of us are giving 85 per cent of the income of the churches.

Why do you suppose the average giving record is so poor? I think there are several reasons: (1) Too many

churches are giving too many members a free ride in their church membership. (2) Too many church leaders are failing to plan and seriously challenge the giving potential of the people. (3) We don't love lost people around the world. (4) We don't really love Jesus very much!

Our Lord says to us: "If you love me, keep my commandments." Paul told the Corinthian Christians to give "to prove the sincerity of your love." There is no clearer barometer to the reality of one's love for Christ and a lost world than what one places in the offering plate of the church on Sunday.

For any Baptist to allow the collection plate to pass empty on Sunday and stand in the service and sing, "O, how I love Jesus" is hypocrisy of the worst kind.

Church members who habitually fail to give are spiritually sick and the church needs to be concerned for their illness. They are in far worse condition than the members who are physically ill. For one to profess a saving experience with Christ and habitually fail to support His cause in the world is to belie one's profession by one's practice!

Five dollars and seventy-eight cents average for a year for each Southern Baptist to share his faith with the rest of the world! It must make heaven weep!

Staff Changes

Winnie Byrd has been called as preschool and children's director of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. She will also have certain secretarial duties in the educational office.

She majored in elementary education in college and at the Southwestern Seminary. She is a native of Greene County, Miss.

She was educational and church secretary at Main Street 1962-1962. In addition she has served on the staff of the Training Union Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; on the staff of churches in Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, and at First, Philadelphia, Miss.

Her work in the various associations includes serving as Children's director; Church Training director, and Baptist Women's director.

On the state level she has served as Approved Worker in Children's work; taught in enlargement campaigns; taught at state assemblies; and worked with Children's Bible Drills. John Barnes is Main Street pastor.

John Kramer has assumed the duties of associate pastor, with primary responsibilities in music and youth, at First, Quitman.

A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and Southern Seminary, he has served in an associate position at First, Lebanon, Ohio.

Ray Moseley has accepted the pastorate of Palestine Church, Simpson County, and began his work there on June 18. Moseley, a Magee native, recently graduated from Boyce Bible School, Louisville, Ky. He previously was pastor of Magnolia Church, Jackson County, for two years. He and his wife, Mick, have two daughters, Cindy and Penny.



Ray and Mick Moseley



Horace C. Thomas, native of Union County near New Albany, has accepted the call to become pastor of Immanuel Church, Greenwood.

Thomas has moved to Greenwood from Fulton, where he had served 12 years as pastor of Trinity Church. Trinity under his leadership has grown from 150 in Sunday School to 300. The budget has grown from \$13,000 to \$72,000 with 467 additions to the membership. A major building program was completed.

Thomas has served as associational moderator, treasurer, Sunday School director, Vacation Bible School director, Chairman of Evangelism, and State Convention Board member. He also was president of the Fulton Ministerial Association.

A graduate of Blue Mountain College, he is married to the former Delyne Murrah and they have a son, Gregg, a sophomore at Mississippi Delta Junior College and minister of music and youth at Priceville, Tupelo. Immanuel honored Thomas with a reception on Sunday, June 4.

Diamondhead Mission, Gulf Coast, has called Harold Cole as pastor.

Gerald Dinsdale has resigned as music director at Gulf Gardens Church, Gulf Coast.

First, Gulfport, has called Keith Hill as minister of activities and youth.

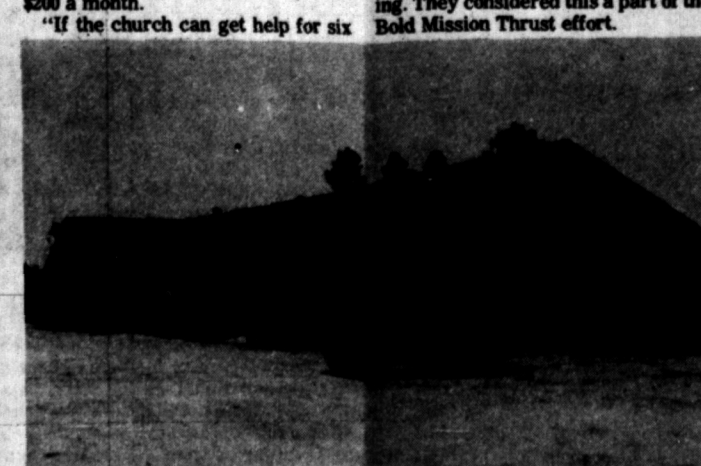
Fellowship Church, Greene County, called Alton Fagan as pastor on April 1. He moved there from Friendship Church, Jones County. A graduate of Clarke College, he will receive the B. A. degree from William Carey College in August.



Mr. and Mrs. Ron Kenworthy are laying tile while daughter Libby watches. The Kenworthy's son is waiting for the completion of the new building to be baptized.



Church work has become a family affair. Debra Lauder milk, left, hauls sand while her two brothers, Jim, second from left, and Anthony, right, pile it up to make a pad for an air conditioning installation. Brad Barrett is second from right.



The new building from Commission Road Baptist Church nears completion.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Jimmy D. Davis, director of Baptist Student Union for the Gulf Coast Junior College for the past ten years, has resigned. A native of Canton, he attended Hinds Jr. College, Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. It was while in seminary that he met and later married Bonnie Sowell. He and Bonnie have two daughters.

The Adult and Youth Choirs of Calvary Church, West Point combined June 18 to present the musical, "This Is Living," by Richard Baker. Baker, full-time music evangelist and composer, was present for the presentation and served as guest soloist. Gary "Slim" Cornett is minister of music and Ronnie Estes is pastor.

FORT WORTH, Tx. (BP) — Philip Poole will begin duties as associate director of public relations of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary effective July 1.

He will be responsible for disseminating all news and information, producing seminary publications, setting up campus tours and assisting in arrangements for campus special events and student recruitment. He succeeds Donald S. Hepburn, who joined the Southern Baptist General Convention of California as public relations director.



Thomas Delaughter (right), retiring professor of Old Testament at the New Orleans Baptist Seminary, was one of four men honored by the faculty and administration of the New Orleans Seminary recently. In addition to other gifts, Delaughter was presented with a plaque commemorating his many years of service at the seminary. The plaque was presented by Landrum Leavell, seminary president, left. Delaughter will be moving to Picayune, Miss., after he retires in July, and hopes to remain active in convention and seminary work. — (NOBTS Photo by Richard Dodge.)

David R. Grant, pastor, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will be camp pastor for this year's Family Bible Conference Camp-In Week at Seneca Lake, Ohio, August 21-25.

Bobby Wayne Armstrong was recently licensed to the ministry by First Church, Mississippi City.

First, Long Beach held a commissioning service for Vivian Lee, BSU summer missionary in Colorado.

L. J. Magee, presently serving in a ministry to nursing homes and rescue missions in the Jackson area, is available for pulpit supply or interim pastorate. His pastor, Wilbur Irwin of Forest Hill, states, "I commend Brother Lavell as a man who loves the Lord and is acquainted with His Word. He may be contacted at 3145 Lakewood Drive, Jackson 39212 (phone 373-7829).



Eight from Drew Church were state winners in the Children and Youth Bible Drills held recently. They included (from left to right) Millie Williams, Sandy Moorman, Cathy Payne, Cindy Williams, Leann Griffin, Wendy Griffin, and Susie Williams. Not pictured is Amy Tidmore. This marks the second year in a row that Cindy Williams, Susie Williams, and Leann Griffin are state winners, and the third year in a row that Cathy Payne was a state winner.

Raleigh, N. C. (RNS) — A bill allowing the sale of liquor by the drink on a local option basis was defeated in a 61-36 vote of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Voters in 1973 rejected by a 2-1 margin a referendum which would have permitted liquor by



Ron and Patricia Owens will present a sacred concert at the evening worship service at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, on Sunday, July 2, at 7 p.m. Ron is a native of Switzerland and Patricia is a native of Jackson. Patricia attended the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N. Y., where she earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Ron studied in Europe and in the States.

B. F. Smith, pastor at Pine Grove, Ellisville and professor emeritus, William Carey College, was the homecoming speaker June 11 at Briarwood Church, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. This was his first student pastorate, which he served 1925-26. Several were present whom he had baptized over 50 years ago, and many who remembered his pastorate. Then a quarter-time church, meeting in a one-room unpainted frame building, Briarwood is now full time, with a brick building and pastor's home.

James K. Beck and Mrs. Beck have become the parents of an adopted son, James K. Beck, II (Jamie). Beck is pastor of Calvary Church in Lamar Association. The Becks are the parents of two daughters, Kris and Stacy.

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP) — William O. (Bill) Crews Jr., editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness, newspaper of the Northwest Baptist Convention, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif.

Crews, a native of San Angelo, Texas, also served as director of communications for the convention, which covers Southern Baptist work in Oregon and Washington and includes some Southern Baptist churches in Canada.

Prior to joining the convention staff in November, 1976, Crews served as pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Seattle, Wash., and Metropolitan Baptist Church, Portland, Ore. He is a former member of the Northwest Convention's executive board and former president of the convention. He currently serves on the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and chairs its committee for West Africa.

He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

DeSoto Church, Clarke County, honored its pastor, James L. Rayner, recently with a This Is Your Life program. Rayner graduated from William Carey College on May 6. He received a scholarship as the outstanding Hebrew scholar. Guests were from his two previous pastorates, his home church, and included friends and family. Mrs. Bonnie Traweck sang. Richard Martin, his wife Barbara, and daughter Lori were present. Martin was Rayner's pastor when he surrendered to the ministry at Eastview Church, Laurel, in 1970, and now serves in Shalimar, Fla. Laura Latner presented Rayner with a needlepoint plaque made by Margaret Evans commemorating the pastor's graduation. Over 100 attended the reception in fellowship hall.



Greets Home Board Guests

Rodney Webb, former Mississippian, now on the staff of the Home Mission Board, greets guests at the Home Mission Board building in Atlanta during Open House on June 14. Webb explained the work of language missions in the U. S. to the hundreds who toured the Board building.

Now It's Yoga Vs. TM

TORONTO (RNS) — The Ontario government has been asked to launch an investigation of claims advertised by the Transcendental Meditation (TM) movement that they can teach devotees to levitate.

The request for an investigation and a halt to any false advertising was requested by a rival group, the Interna-

tional Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centers and Ashrams founded by Swami Vishnudevananda.

Swami Vishnudevananda charged that the TM group, led by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, has made fraudulent claims to attract devotees and their money. TM reportedly charges about \$4,000 for its "advanced courses."

Revival Dates

Union Church, North, Rt. 4, Collins: July 9-12; Barney Walker, evangelist; Bruce Lancaster, music evangelist; Bilbo Sellers, pastor.

Fellowship Church (Greene): June 25-30; Johnny Tucker of Citronelle, Ala., evangelist; Tom Lott, William Carey College, in charge of music; Alton Fagan, pastor.

Liberty Church, Liberty: July 9-14; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; weekday at 10 a.m.; Bill Causey, pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, evangelist; music under direction of Hubert Greer, music evangelist, Brookhaven; Charles Holifield, pastor.

Corinth Church (Jasper): July 2-7; Ernest Stillman, evangelist; Cecil Harper, music evangelist; Sunday Old Fashioned Day with dinner on the grounds; Thursday and Friday services held at Sandersville baseball field; the "Searchers" singing on Thursday night; 7:30 p.m. services; Ed Holloman, Pastor.

Clarke Pastors

Honor Boggans

W. W. Boggan, director of missions, Clarke and Wayne Counties, and Mrs. Boggan were honored June 5 with a supper by the pastors of Clarke County and their wives, at the home of James Lavelle Rayner, pastor at DeSoto.

The evening began with the pastors and their wives bringing covered dishes and meeting at 7 p.m. The Boggans arrived about 7:30 expecting to speak to a group of pastors and other leaders. They opened the door to hear "surprise."

After the meal Rayner led the group in Bible quiz games. Taylor Wallace presented gifts to the Boggans from the pastors of the county. Boggan was given a suit and tie, and his wife was given a gown set. James Pugh, pastor of Union Church, presented the Boggans with a check for \$152 from his church.

The party was an expression of the appreciation the Clarke pastors feel for their county missionary.

Sydney (RNS) — Australia's Roman Catholic hierarchy has asked all parishes to "consider seriously the possibility of becoming personally involved in the resettlement of at least one refugee family."

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Group Now After Liquor

WICHITA, Kan. (RNS) — Concerned Citizens of Wichita, the group which advanced the referendum that abolished the city's homosexual rights ordinance, now has turned its sights on liquor by the drink.

Mike Schepis, chairman of Concerned Citizens, said its executive board voted unanimously "to do all we can in the Sedgewick County area to oppose liquor by the drink with all our support and energies."

A state law passed this year permits counties to vote on whether to allow liquor served by the drink in restaurants in which sale of food represents 50 percent of their incomes.

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Just For The Record



Ingomar Sends Missionaries To Montana

Pastor W. Frank Lay (left) and Union County director of missions, Guy Culver (right), congratulate Kenny Gregory and Randy Fitzgerald who were recently selected by Ingomar Church to serve in Gardiner, Montana for the summer. They will be helping in the construction of a new church in Gardiner. Kenny, a ministerial student at Clarke College, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gregory of Ingomar. Randy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Fitzgerald of Ingomar, and is a 1978 graduate of Ingomar High School.



Jeff Davis Sponsors Team To Montana

The churches of Jefferson Davis Association sponsored a mission team to do construction work on a church in Harlowton, Montana during the first week of June, according to an announcement by L. B. Atchison, director of missions. The churches of the association shared on an equal basis the entire cost of the materials, as well as the expenses of the team to travel to Montana; they contributed over \$2,000 toward the project. The men returned on June 10, after completing the work in less than one week.

The fifteen men, including laymen and pastors involved in the project were: Terrell Langston, Dewey Dyess, Coy Turnage, Randy Easterling, Lewis Chisolm, Larue Magee, Sammy Myers, Ray Henry, Chilly Polk, Frank Vice, Billy Greene, Sammy Chisolm, Jerry Milling, Timothy Myers, and Sonny Magee.

Homecoming

RAYMOND CHURCH, Raymond, homecoming will be observed July 2 during Sunday School, morning worship and a musical celebration following dinner on the ground. Sam Mason is pastor.



NEW LIFE CHOIR from First Church, Belzoni has returned from a tour. The young people presented a concert in churches and malls in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana, plus visits to Silver Dollar City, Mo. and Six Flags over Texas. Everett Solie is minister of music, and Billy McKay is interim pastor. (Photo taken at Wister Henry Gardens, Belzoni.)



FAIRVIEW CHURCH, COLUMBUS youth choir has completed a tour in which they presented the musical, "Tell the World," by Jimmy and Carol Owen, to churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. The choir left June 7 and returned June 11. They gave concerts at Westview, Jackson; West St. Charles Church in Boutte, La.; and Galilee Church, Baton Rouge. They visited Mississippi College and spent a morning in New Orleans. On June 11 they presented a concert in their home church, to an overflow audience. The 55-voice choir is under direction of Bob Waldrop, minister of music and youth. Gene Henderson is pastor.

Fagans Named Missionaries

ATLANTA — Kenneth and Flossie Fagan of New Orleans, La., have been appointed missionaries by the Home Mission Board.

They will serve as directors of weekday ministries in Pennsylvania, based in Philadelphia.

Fagan, a native of Hattiesburg, is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta and New Orleans Seminary.

Prior to appointment he was chaplain at the Louisiana Training Institute in Bridge City, La., and has served as assistant pastor in New Orleans.

Flossie Hopkins Fagan, also a Hattiesburg native, is a graduate of William Carey College and works in New Orleans. The Fagans have two children.

Keep On Praying

By Carl R. Nelson, Pastor, Pelahatchie Church

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1)

Prayer is our powerline to God. There is no substitute for prayer. Jesus taught that God hears our prayers but that He answers according to the persistence of our faith. There are many things that will discourage our prayers but our Lord tells us to keep on praying anyway. He shares with us a story that illustrates these truths.

A woman's husband had died and had left her with a serious legal problem that she couldn't handle by herself. She had to have help and the only person she could turn to that could give her the help that she needed was an unkind and an unrighteous judge. He had no respect for God nor any concern about the problems of people.

This little woman could easily have been DISCOURAGED from the very start by the character and reputation of the judge but she wasn't. She should have given up as a result of all the DELAYS that she experienced.

Time and again she went to him in desperation for help. Her adversaries (perhaps creditors) were hounding her and she had to have help but the judge wouldn't listen. He kept putting her off and really wasn't planning to help her at all. However, her DETERMINATION made him change his mind. Every time he turned around the widow was there with her request.

She wouldn't leave him alone. He was her only source of help and he knew that she was not going to give up. He decided that the only way he could get this little woman off his back was to do what she asked. He helped her find DELIVERANCE from her adversaries. The motive for his action was not her need but her persistence and his peace of mind.

Jesus said that we need to learn from what the unrighteous judge said... that persistence pays off. And nowhere is this more true than in prayer. If we will keep on bringing our needs and requests to the righteous Lord in prayer and not let circumstances and events discourage us, we will find that He is anxious to help us.

The widow's faith that even this wicked judge would help her if she did not give up should be an example to us to have an even greater faith to pray to our loving Lord.



J. B. Smith To Retire At 78

J. B. Smith, of Ackerman, who has been in the ministry for 55 years and is still pastor at Fentress in Choctaw County at age 78, plans to retire fully in a few weeks.

He held student and retirement pastorates, but served four main full-time churches during the years of his ministry.

One deacon in each of these four

General Motors Gift

Mississippi College has received a \$25,000 grant from the General Motors Corporation as its contribution to the College's BREAKTHROUGH campaign. The gift has been designated for use in proposed construction projects. R. N. (Dick) Acker (right), director of Mississippi Operations for Packard Electric headquartered in Clinton, makes a presentation of the first installment to Dr. Lewis Nobles, president of the College. Packard Electric and Mississippi College have developed a close relationship since becoming neighbors six years ago. (M. C. Photo)

churches is still living who was a deacon when Smith went to the church as pastor.

The four deacons are: Mackville, Ky. — Marvin Thompson, a banker; Ackerman, John F. Keen, a banker; Hollandale — J. F. Brock, a salesman; and First, Magee — E. T. McAlpin, a merchant. Brock of Hollandale is 90.

Uniform Lesson

Paul Ministers By Letters

By Jackie C. Hamilton, Pastor, Highland, Meridian

Acts 18:1-4;

I Thessalonians 2:1-2, 13-20

Letter writing was a ministry for Paul. This was true for several reasons. He did not usually stay very long in one place; he could not travel back and forth between the churches; and there was no written guide for the Christian to follow.

Though the study of Acts we know Paul wrote during an itinerant ministry. First and second Thessalonians were written during Paul's time at Corinth on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-17), about A.D. 52, 53. During his third missionary tour (Acts 18:23-21:36) he wrote first and second Corinthians (A.D. 55, 56), Romans (A.D. 57) and Galatians (A.D. 58).

Paul was in prison in Rome but during that time was allowed freedom (Acts 28:16-31). It was during that time that he wrote what we know as the "prison letters": Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians (A.D. 61, 62). Apparently he was released for a time during which he wrote what was called "pastoral letters": I Timothy and Titus (A.D. 64 to 66). He was then imprisoned again and wrote his last letter, II Timothy, about A.D. 67. His martyrdom is dated A.D. 68.

I. Paul and Corinth (Acts 18:1-4)

Because of its location on an isthmus, Corinth had two seaports and became a wealthy, thriving city. Jews came for trade, Romans for official business, and Greeks from the countryside. The city was filled with sailors, businessmen, salesmen, and people from all over the Mediterranean world. The people of Corinth were regarded as inferior morally. "To live as the Corinthians" was a common description of the lowest kind of life.

Paul was a highly educated man but in his youth he had learned a trade. He earned his living by practicing his trade which was tentmaking. Although he received assistance from the Christians at Philippi, in effect he supported himself. When Paul came to Corinth he found lodging and employment with Aquila and Priscilla.

It appears that Paul worked at his trade during the week, but utilized the Sabbath for presenting a Christian testimony in the synagogue. It was not

long after presenting his testimony in the synagogue that violent opposition forced him to continue his teaching and preaching in the house of Justus.

In Acts 18:4 it is mentioned that he "persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." One would expect to find Jews in the synagogue. The Greeks mentioned here were probably non-Jews who were attending the synagogue. Many such non-Jews, called proselytes, were attached to the Jewish faith.

II. Proclaiming The Gospel (I Thessalonians 2:1-2)

The ancient world abounded with itinerant "preachers" of philosophies and quack remedies who sought by these means to pick up a living. Paul did not want to be regarded at any time as one of these. As he wrote the present verse (I Thessalonians 2:1) he still had in mind the picture of his "entrance" into the city (I Thessalonians 1:9). The "welcome" of 1:9 and the "visit" of 2:1 both represent an original "entrance." When the preachers entered Thessalonica they did not come as parasites, seeking to get what they could from a gullible population. They came rather with their hands loaded with the gifts of the Gospel; hence their visit was not in vain. The effectiveness of any mission depends on whether the missionary has something to give — has he a Gospel? Paul and his companions had.

Paul indicated that he "suffered... shamefully treated at Philippi." He is referring to events recorded by Luke (Acts 16:19-24) and they left their mark on Paul (Philippians 1:30). A few years later he gave to the church in Corinth a summary of his sufferings (II Corinthians 11:23-27).

Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, had come to Thessalonica. We could imagine their emotions as they entered the city. Would it be Philippi all over again? In every city it was being brought home to him the painful cost of preaching the Gospel. Many a lesser man would have faltered and even given up the work. Paul bore it in good heart, but he did not merely "bear" it; he harnessed it to the power of Christ.

Paul indicates that he and his companions were in Thessalonica "to declare to you the Gospel of God." It is sometimes said that Christianity is caught, not taught. This sounds good but is dangerous. It suggests the power of a living Christian community, but it

forgets that if the Gospel is to be known, if the faith is to be "caught," it must be made known. A man who has really "caught" something will become an inquirer first. He needs to be told, either by word of mouth of preacher or teacher, or in conversation, or by the printed page.

Paul refers to the fact that this was done "in the face of great opposition." It is a metaphor from sports. It can be

illustrated today by the Olympic Games. In Paul's day each race or bout was an "event." Obviously there were competitors against whom Paul was striving. There were men "preaching" their philosophies and others crying their wares and panaceas. Paul had to divert the attention of their listeners. In addition he had to contend with those who positively set out to silence him.

Life and Work Lesson

The Dynamic Gospel

By Bill Duncan, Long Beach, First Colossians 1:1-14

Fritz Ridenour has written a modern commentary on Colossians with the appealing title, *How to Be a Christian in an UnChristian World*. According to the introduction, the book of Colossians can help us "understand how secular man thinks... Why he says there is no absolute truth anywhere... Why he has sold out to a new morality that is no morality... Why he'd rather do his own thing than do the right thing." This will be a great study.

While in prison at Rome in A.D. 62, the apostle Paul heard of how Christians in the church at Colosse were being swayed by heretical philosophies that claimed Christ was something less than God. Paul responded by telling them that in Christ Christians have everything. Christ is the whole truth. There is no one else and there is nothing more.

Christ is not to be apologized for, explained in a way that makes him palatable to modern minds, or watered down into an insipid set of ethical rules. It must be through Christ and only through Him that a Christian can learn how to be a Christian in an un-Christian world.

The church there was being taken over by a group of intellectuals who decided to rewrite the Gospel to suit their philosophical ideas. Some of

these intellectuals were Jewish legalists and others were Greeks who were teaching a system of thought that came to be known as Gnosticism. Gnostic heretics were saying that Christ was not divine. They stressed the philosophical point of view — human wisdom. How would you straighten out confused believers with this problem?

The apostle's thanksgiving are warm and personal. They are a means of establishing a bond of understanding and confidence between him and his readers. The hostility which many may have had in criticism for Paul is disarmed in advanced as he expresses his interest and praise. The appeals for thanksgiving run through Colossians like the refrain of a song.

The circumstances and character of Paul's thanksgiving to God are because he is responsible for the virtues and graces of His people and for the ultimate success of the Gospel.

The reason for the thanksgiving is the good report which had come to Paul of the well-being of the Colossian Christians. Most like Epaphras had brought the good news of "their faith in the Christ Jesus, their love towards all the saints and their hope" for the future.

The thought of hope based upon the Gospel message brought out the progress of the Gospel. Paul adds two addi-

III. Receiving The Gospel (I Thessalonians 2:13-16)

Paul rejected human wisdom and thought little of mere eloquence. He was content to pass on what God had given him. When Paul speaks of "believing" he uses the present tense to convey the idea of a continuous process of belief. It is the condition of the working of God in men that they continue to exercise faith.

Paul felt that the way the Thessalonians bore persecution was an evidence of their real Christianity. It showed that they had indeed received the Gospel as divine in origin, that the Gospel had produced results in them and was still working in them.

In verses 15 and 16, Paul says that the sins of the Jews were as follows: they killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, they persecuted the Christ-

ians, they did not try to please God, and they wished to keep the offer of the love of God exclusively to themselves.

IV. Love and Hope (I Thessalonians 2:17-20)

In these verses Paul speaks of Satan blocking his way when he desired to come to Thessalonica. It is Satan's work to throw obstacles into the Christian's way and it is our work to surmount them.

Hope is an earnest longing for something in the future, coupled with an expectation that this desire will be satisfied. Paul had this hope and expected to see, know and rejoice with the Thessalonian Christians in Christ's presence. He also indicated that it would be his "joy" to see and know them.

Paul speaks of the reappearance of Jesus in each of the five chapters of the first letter to the Thessalonians.

and generous and loving in his relationship with men.

The noble prayer of Colossians 1:9-14 is Paul's response to the news which had come to him of the Colossians' experience in Christ. Paul was grateful for what had happened to them. He prays now for the further enrichment of their lives. He prays that the Colossians may be so filled with the knowledge of God's will that they may be enabled to live worthily of the Lord, pleasing Him in everything. This worthy life is defined as involving fruitfulness in every good work, growth in the knowledge of God, patience and longsuffering, and gratitude to God for the blessings of redemption.

From the time Paul heard of the saints in Christ in Colosse and their faith, hope and love, he was concerned for their continued growth and maturity in Christ, that they might be positive, strong, victorious, a glorious temple unto the Lord.

The Gospel is the message of hope. Because they had believed the Gospel, there was much for them yet to experience. Paul prayed that God would provide them since these things do not come by human striving but by man's using God's gift.

What is the real Gospel for our day? The wave of error had to be stopped. The way Paul approached the subject was to present the true position of the Christian in Christ and the positive Christian's victorious life. This was Paul's prayer of thanksgiving and petition, and it is ours also.